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TI The role of the medial prefrontal cortex of rats in short-term memory functioning: further support for involvement of cholinergic, rather than dopaminergic mechanisms

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LA English

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AB The putative involvement of the dopaminergic innervation of the medial part of the prefrontal cortex (PFC) in short-term memory functioning was investigated by evaluating the effects of local infusions of dopaminergic drugs into the ventral part of the medial PFC of rats in an operant, delayed-matching-to-position (DMTP) task. Two sep. groups of rats were tested after bilateral microinfusion of several doses of either the dopamine receptor agonist **apomorphine** (APO) or the dopamine receptor antagonist **cis-flupenthixol** (FLU) into the ventromedial PFC. In addn., all animals were tested after infusion of several doses of the muscarinic receptor antagonist **scopolamine** (SCO) and the dopamine D1 receptor antagonist **SCH 23390** (SCH). The drugs tested affected DMTP performance differentially. APO had no effect on response accuracy, although it dose-dependently affected nose poke activity and response latencies. FLU and SCH both induced a dose-dependent, but delay-independent deterioration of response accuracy that was paralleled by increases in response latencies and decreases in nose poke frequencies, causing some animals to stop responding after infusion of

the highest doses of both drugs. In contrast, SCO infusions into the ventromedial PFC induced a dose- and delay-dependent deterioration of response accuracy, that was accompanied by an increase in response latencies only. These results provide addnl. support for the involvement of cholinergic, rather than dopaminergic mechanisms in short-term memory processes supported by the medial PFC of the rat, and they are not in favor of a functional dissocn. between the dorsomedial PFC and the ventromedial PFC in this role.

L5 ANSWER 10 OF 29 SCISEARCH COPYRIGHT 2002 ISI (R)

AB Objectives. **Apomorphine** has been reported to be effective in causing erections in animals and man when administered parenterally. The

side effects, notably nausea, have seriously limited its clinical usefulness. We formulated **apomorphine** for controlled sublingual absorption and herein report on four preliminary studies evaluating efficacy and side effects in men with no documentable organic cause of erectile dysfunction.

Methods. Patients complaining of erectile dysfunction underwent a careful evaluation. Those with measurable organic dysfunction or known organic factors were excluded. Men with primarily psychogenic impotence were tested with one of four protocols of an **apomorphine** preparation (preliminary sublingual liquid, preliminary 5 mg tablet, aqueous nasal spray, and new 3 and 4 mg controlled absorption tablets). The erectile response of these men to the drug with visual erotic or sexually neutral stimulation was studied with the Rigiscan.

Results. Seven of 10 evaluable patients responded to the sublingual liquid preparation but the majority experienced significant nausea. The preliminary 5 mg tablet and aqueous forms did not produce useful

responses

free of side effects. The newly formulated controlled absorption 3 and 4 mg tablets were tested in 12 men. Eight of 12 (67%) developed erections

in

response to **apomorphine**. Erectile activity was seen during sexually neutral visual stimulation to a significantly greater extent

than

with placebo. Home trial use was found to be successful and sustained by

7

of 11 (64%) patients.

Conclusions. We have shown that **apomorphine** will act as an erectogenic agent when absorbed through the oral mucosa in a carefully selected group of impotent patients with no documentable organic causes

of

erectile dysfunction, but with proven erectile potential, 67% will experience significantly durable erections with a dose of 3 or 4 mg of **apomorphine** when formulated for controlled absorption. The results in these small groups appear to justify larger clinical studies of this proprietary formulation.

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TI RECOVERY OF ERECTILE FUNCTION BY THE ORAL-ADMINISTRATION OF APOMORPHINE

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L5 ANSWER 11 OF 29 EMBASE COPYRIGHT 2002 ELSEVIER SCI. B.V.DUPLICATE 9

AB We present a review of the recent literature and personal experience with **apomorphine** in patients with Parkinson's disease. **Apomorphine** is a potent D1 and D2 dopaminergic agonist. It has a rapid and short duration effect after subcutaneous administration at

doses

ranging from 15 to 180 $\mu\text{g/kg}$. Plasma maximal concentration is reached in 8-16 minutes, with a plasma half-life of 34-70 minutes.

Bioavailability

is close to 100%. Repeated injections in patients show post-stimulative hyposensitivity. **Apomorphine** test appears very useful for the differential diagnosis between idiopathic Parkinson's disease and other Parkinson plus syndromes, and as a predictive test for dopaminergic responsiveness. Appropriate doses are able to alleviate akinesia,

rigidity

and tremor. Recent therapeutic trials have demonstrated the high interest of intermittent multiple subcutaneous **apomorphine** injections to cut tile 'off' motor phases in fluctuating parkinsonian patients under chronic levodopa treatment. In some cases, continuous **apomorphine** subcutaneous infusion with a portable pump may be required, particularly when levodopa treatment is temporarily interrupted, as after abdominal surgery. During long-term treatment, the **apomorphine** dose able to relieve akinesia remains stable. Peripheral side effects such as

nausea

and hypotension may be prevented by the co-administration of domperidone, a peripheral dopaminergic antagonist. Cutaneous fibrous nodules and psychiatric symptoms may occur, but usually at high dosages with continuous infusion. Local allergic effects have limited the use of other routes of administration, such as intranasal, sublingual, and rectal routes. **Apomorphine** is also used as a pharmacological